

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 04149 261607Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 4149

EXDIS/SALT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: EXCERPTS FROM ROWNY - SHCHUKIN CONVERSATION
MAY 26, 1977 (SALT TWO-1190)

1. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE EXCERPTS FROM A RECORD OF A
CONVERSATION ON 24 MAY 1977 BETWEEN LT. GEN. ROWNY AND
ACADEMICIAN SHCHUKIN:

"I ASKED SHCHUKIN WHAT HIS MOOD WAS FOLLOWING THE VANCE/
GROMYKO TALKS. SHCHUKIN SAID THAT HE WAS CONTENT TO BE
GUIDED BY THE JOINT STATEMENT THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.
HAVING SIGNED HIS INTERPRETER TO LEAVE, SHCHUKIN TOLD ME THAT
HE WOULD NEVER CRITICIZE A SUPERIOR; AT THE SAME TIME, THAT
WHAT WAS SAID IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING WAS OF LITTLE
SIGNIFICANCE. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE WOULD BE THE OFFICIAL
LINE THAT CAME OUT OF THE KREMLIN IN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AFTER
THEY HAD ANALYZED HOW TO PROCEED. HE SAID THAT WHILE IT COMPLICATED
OUR WORK, THE STRUGGLE FOR PUBLIC OPINIONS (HE EMPHASIZED
THE PLURAL) WOULD CONTINUE.

SHCHUKIN SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD, WITH GOOD REASON,
INCREASINGLY USE THEIR "GEOGRAPHICAL" ARGUMENTS. I SAID I
COULDN'T FOLLOW THIS SINCE (1) THE SOVIETS COULD REINFORCE
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THEIR ALLIES MORE QUICKLY THAN WE COULD, (2) THE LOCATION OF
THE 100 FATHOM CURVE FAVORED THEM, AND (3) OUR POPULATION AND
INDUSTRY WAS MORE CONCENTRATED AND MORE VULNERABLE THAN THEIRS.
SHCHUKIN SAID THAT TO UNDERSTAND THE GEOGRAPHICAL ARGUMENT,
ONE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GERMANY, BUT THERE WERE ALSO OTHER
SHIFTS TAKING PLACE IN THE CORRELATION OF FORCES, AMONG WHICH
WAS AN EMERGING DEMOCRATIC SPAIN.

I ASKED SHCHUKIN WHY THE SOVIETS HAD REINTRODUCED THE FBS ARGUMENT INASMUCH AS IT HAD BEEN SETTLED AT VLADIVOSTOK. SHCHUKIN SAID THAT IT WAS AN ARGUMENT THE SOVIET MILITARY FOUND ATTRACTIVE AND THAT IT COULD ALWAYS BE USED IF THE GEOGRAPHICAL ARGUMENTS APPEARED NOT TO BE PERSUASIVE.

SHCHUKIN SAID THAT WHAT WENT WRONG WITH SALT IN THE EARLY DAYS WAS THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE MMIII WITH MIRVS. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS DONE BEFORE WE KNEW WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE AN ABM TREATY. HOWEVER, ONCE WE MIRVED, THE SOVIETS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EQUAL OUR TOTAL UNDER OF REENTRY VEHICLES. HE SAID THAT PRESTIGE PLAYED A LARGE ROLE IN THESE MATTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, HE FELT I APPRECIATED THE

DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY HAS IN CHANGING OR SCRAPPING ANY OF THEIR PROGRAMS.

SHCHUKIN SAID THAT ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN MOSCOW IN SALT WAS MINISTER USTINOV AND HOW HE VIEWED THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH OUR PROGRAM. SHCHUKIN SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT SECRETARY BROWN WAS IN A SIMILAR POSITION IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THIS WAS FORTUNATE SINCE HE HAD SUCH A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF SALT." EARLE

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